VOLUME 21
March 3, 1980

The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, 617-891-8022

MONTHLY REPORT At 1980's first party, Wilma's laughter says it all. Friends, enjoying themselves. Who cared that the winter picked the night of our party to have its one and only snow storm. A piddly little 6" of snow wasn't going to stop our party, no ma'am. (The local authorities weren't terribly pleased, since we had so many cars out front that the plows couldn't get through. They threatened to tow my car. ... no one else's, just mine. Had to throw on hip boots over my green satin pajamas, don my Sierra down parka - my outfit was the epitome of sex - and trudge off through the snow so my car wouldn't be towed.) (That's only because there was no place to park after making three trips into Boston to pick up people who didn't want to drive in the snow.) (Cowards!) The food. Oh my word! (No place for someone, like me, who stuffed a size 48 body into a size 42B all-in-one) There were Wilma's stuffed mushrooms, Denise's steamed clams, Marie's egg plant parmisan, Nancy's death wish lasagna, Liz and Trish's salad, Eloise's cake, fresh knishes, a salmon dish, chinese ravioli, figs, etc., etc., etc. What a night. Good party, good turn out (dispite the wather), good people, great food, and best of all, everybody contributed. The party belonged to and was enjoyed by everybody.

Well, more went on during February than just our party. Cionia Lanza and Dave Ryder were our guests this month. Their visit was intended to be relaxed and informal, for conversation, company, and an exchange of ideas. This 'no format' approach seemed to work, for it appeared that our guests enjoyed their visit nearly as much as we enjoyed having them. (I did have one complaint though. Cionia showed up in this gorgeous fur coat and hat combination and wearing a softly draping quiana dress. What a nerve. Cionia showing up in that outfit was almost as bad as when Marie showed up in that incredible white and gold caftan wearing those beautiful white kidskin gloves. It's not fair. Envy is a fundamental sensation for any TV, certainly is part of mine, and if a lady wants to feel appreciated, then the Tiffany Club is the right place to come.)

WILMA

To Dave and Cionia, thank you for coming. Your visit was enjoyed, and most appreciated.

On to March.

LOVE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn

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I am printing Patsy Marie Pichon's letter for two reasons. First, the letter is a compliment to all our members and friends, and second Patsy make some excellent points. One of the points she made was just how much fun <u>everybody</u> could have without sex or alcohol. Another point she illustrated was, although we at Tiffany are aware of how much growing and how much work we have yet to do, we simply take for granted how much we have already done. We have a viable social organization that emphasizes friendship and not sex. We have a clean and comfortable facility that belongs to the club and not to an individual. We have organization, legitimacy, and most importantly leadership and people who are willing to lend a hand. Who can claim as much? Her final point is the most important one and relevant to us all, whether we be here, Chicago, California, Florida or Maryland. She said, "God only knows we all need all the love and support we can get, and can accomplish more working together than separately."

Thank you Patsy for a lovely and a wise letter.

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P.O. Box 180
West Hartford, Ct.
February 20, 1980

Dear Merissa,

There is no doubt in my mind--Saturday night's party at the Tiffany Club was the best TV affair I have ever attended, and one of the nicest social occasions of any kind I have ever had the pleasure to experience. Perhaps I'v just led a dull social life until now, but at any rate, it was a blast! So many nice and interesting people to talk with, so many "goodies" to eat (I think I gained 5 lbs. over the weekend), and your "home" is beautiful, even though it may be in transition. You were obviously and rightfully proud of it. Thank you for your gracious hospitality, the bed for the night, and most of all, the invitation.

Although I realize that most Saturday nights are probably quieter than last week, meeting all the people I did really makes me want to come back soon. It was especially nice that Wilma could see the TV scene at its best, and I think she learned a lot that made her more comfortable. It's funny--when I took her home on Sunday, her friend Barbara dropped in and we both did a double take--I had met her at Albany in September! Hope I'll get the chance to meet both of them again, as well as Elizabeth and Patricia, Ann, Nancy, Elaine, Shiela, ETC!

As I think I shared with you, I was impressed with the fact that everyone was having a great time, yet no one was drunk, rowdy, or acting in a way that would embarrass others. Obviously, you have been stringent in both your selection procedures and in your behavioral expectations of members. And all the rowdies go to Kay's!

cont.

Frankly, I'm green with envy. Not only do you have a nice place physically, but obviously have a considerable number of people who are willing to get responsbily involved with the club, including footing the bills and making a financial investment. Sadly, none of this is the case in Hartford. Although some very nice individuals are included in our membership, the overwhelming majority are poor as churchmice, and don't want any more involvment than coming to the meetings and having a good time. If we should find another place, there is no one like yourself or Diane to take care of it as it should be, and coordinate things. I have the motivation and capability, but my family and career situation make it impossible. Then we have the element that wants to have a sex orgy with anything that moves at the meetings....life is difficult sometimes.

Nonetheless, we intend to proceed as best we can, and will somehow survive despite the odds. Your support, and that of others expressed at the meeting, is much appreciated, and I intend to stay in close contact with you as well as others in the culture. God only knows we all need all the love and support we can get, and can accomplish more working together than separately.

I'm working on DeeDee and Vi to drive up to Tiffany with me some night in the not too distant future, and they sound as if they're interested. It's not such a long drive that we couldn't return the same evening if we left at a decent hour. I'll let you know in advance when we'll be coming--the latter two weekends in March look like possibilities right now, but it will depend on future developments.

Received the Tapestry today and enjoyed it as always. I told DeeDee I was going to charge her for publishing her photo, as it was taken in my apartment. Thanks for keeping us on the mailing list, except that I have no bulletin board to post it on anymore!

By the way, I have given your phone # to a couple of our members who live in Mass. and may be interested in attending a Tiffany meeting. One is Sandy Johnson from Agawam, the other Cathy Stevens from Greenfield. Just thought you might wonder who'd been giving your number out.

Well, thanks again for a superb time last Saturday. I'm glad we finally got to know each other, and look forward to seeing much more of you in the future. Take care---

Love,

Patsy

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- COMING EVENTS -

TIFFANY CLUB 617-891-8022

OPEN MEETINGS 7-11pm Tuesdays and Saturdays. Quiet and relaxed evenings among friends. Help with make-up and comportment upon request. BYOB-BYOF

FEES: Guests $6.00 per visit, Special members $5.00 per visit, Guest members and General members and Keyholders, no charge.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8: Guest Inga, a professional beautician, esthetician and cosmotologist, and a Colose' cosmetics rep., will visit Tiffany, give a cosmetic demonstration, and offer whatever help and advice she can.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 14-15-16: March Gala Weekend. Registration forms available at Tiffany. See Outreach's schedule for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 1pm Open House at Tiffany. The open house is for the participants of the Gala weekend, and for the members of Tiffany. As this is a daytime affair, it is requested that the dress be in masculine attire if possible.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22: Trip to DiRocco's lounge. Dancing. Leaving Tiffany approximately 8pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25: We are planning on having a guest this evening, we just don't know who yet.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8: Business meeting.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19: Tiffany's annual Springtime Bash. RSVP

SATURDAY, MAY 24: Undercover Wear Lingerie Party.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21: 50's Party

THE OPEN DOOR 617-661-3855 c/O Marie Berard

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH Transsexual support group meeting. Locations change, so be sure to check before attending.

FOURTH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH TV/TS Open meeting. Rap sessions open to all interested persons. Held at 739 Boylston St. Boston, but location subject to change.

SATURDAY MARCH 15 An exploratory meeting for a new working group for avowed transsexuals called Ms 'N Us.

THE KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY 617-254-7389 ask for Kay

OPEN MEETINGS: Every Wednesday from 7 to 11pm

PARTY: Last Saturday of every month

HARTFORD TVIC: Meetings every second Saturday. For information: Patsy Marie Pichon, Box 180, West Hartford, Ct. 06107

DEEDEE'S WILL

Transvestites, like many others, leave some strange wills. Here are a few excerpts from some of them.

****

1:- Bury my clothes and give my body to The Salvation Army

2:- Put some clothes hangers in my coffin. They were my company in the closet during my lifetime and will make me feel more at home in death.

3:- To the Traffic Officer who pulled me over while dressed en femme to tell me that the tail light was out, checked my license and said, " Have a good day," I bequeath the sum of $99,999.00. To my wife who thought that I was a fag , I leave ONE DOLLAR.

4:- To the nosey sonofabitch next door who tried in vain to see through the curtains of my bedroom, I leave the curtains and hope she chokes.

5:- To the basbard that dreampt up the phrase, " One size fits all," DROP DEAD.

By Dee Dee

-BULLETIN BOARD -

NUT AND TAPIOCA PUDDING
recipe contributed by
Theda Mayem

Mix together 3 tblsp Tapoica, ½ cup grapenuts, pinch of salt, ½ cup white sugar, ½ cup brown sugar, ½ cup raisins, put 3 cups BOILING water in a double boiler (water boiling in the bottom), mix in the mix and cook till thick, when cool add ½ tsp vanilla. Cool and top with your favorite ice cream or topping.

SHEILA'S PICS BACK

The pictures Sheila took at the party are back, and their gorgeous. If you'd like copies, the negatives are available.

THANX CONTRIBUTORS

To all of you who contributed to help out Robine, Thank you.

BEAUTICIAN

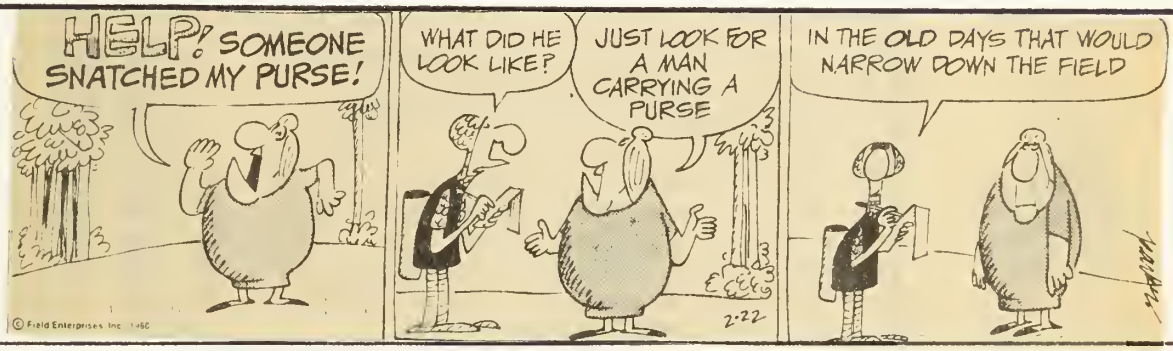
INGA 617-646-0474 Colose' representative, and hair stylist will do hair and give cosmetic lessons in the privacy of your home, or at Tiffany. Open to Tiffany members, by appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS CLAIRE

Claire has finally received her OK to complete her surgery. She will be coming back to us as a new woman in 4 to 6 weeks. It's about time, and again, congratulations.

MISC.

Marie and Claire are apartment mates, and best friends. Marie completed her sex reassignment surgery in Middlesex. Claire is about to complete hers in Queens. Think somebody is trying to tell us something?



- FORUM -

DAMMIT I DON'T HAVE A DISORDER
by Glenda Rene Jones

Although I have many good friends in the professional community who I respect, and there are many shrinks who have referred people to the International Alliance, there are still shrinks around who think I have a disorder. Some are even insane enough to think I might be curable. (They are willing to try especially hard when they think I might be good for 20 sessions on the couch at $75 a crack.)

Mind you I have nothing against my gay friends, but I find it somewhat puzzeling that a guy who prefers a penis in his rectum is considered to be expressing a "lifestyle preference" whereas I am "disordered" when my main taste is a wet warm vagina. Mind you again I have no objection to Linda my wife wearing her typical jeans and T shirts, its just that she is considered roaringly normal with her preference for rib socks, low heeled lace up shoes and I am "disordered" be-

Ms Glenda Rene Jones

cause I commonly run around in my old denim skirt. I am even more disordered I guess because I really like once in a while getting really dolled up with a waxed beard, makeup and going the whole route in high drag, sandals and all.

One guy at work began to bait me. I have long hair with a body perm, long (but not too long to hit comuter terminal keys) fingernails which usually have a neutral shade of polish thereon. At work you will usually see me wearing opaque nylons with sort of androgenous shoes and I do love quiana shirts. (Waw if they could only see my pink satin panties!) Anyway, at lunch one day, we were having a few beers when this guy said, "you long haired faggots ought to be publically flogged." (Oh yeah, I wear some beautiful turquoise jewelry sometimes.) The table was silent as the others waited to see my response. In my prettiest Glenda voice I said ever so sweetly, "My dear, when you have slept with as many women as I, do come around and let us discuss my hair."

All down through history there have been people born smarter than their fellows, or taller, or stronger, etc. People who are different in some fashion. All down through history are a few guys who have wanted to dress as women part or all the time. Disorder? Balderdash!! If I am disordered so was Einstein for being so smart.

God do I wish APA would get their act together on that one.

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LETTER TO MARRIED COUPLES

by

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

The purpose of this letter is to help married couples who may be having problems, to better understand the nature of the crossdressing phenomena, and to help them learn to cope.

First, crossdressing is a magnificent coping device both as a means of escape, and as a means for full personality expression. There is no release from the pressure of being masculine like being feminine. (Note - The stronger the pressure on a man to be masculine, the stronger the need and desire to be feminine.) Also, there is nothing as effective as becoming somebody else for a while when it comes to dealing with the problems and pressures of day to day life. (Beats bridge, and is infinitely superior to alcohol.) As for personal expression, crossdressing is a way to get out and live it up, or feel pretty, to be the way one wants to be without sacrificing their masculine image of themselves. Their masculine image and feminine image are different, yet necessary elements of the same person. The two make the one. Of course the great crime is society's abhorrence to such a unity. For instance, there is no real difference between males and females. Both are people and both have needs, yet when it comes to expressing one's masculinity and femininity, females have more freedom. Females have a far greater opportunity to express their masculinity without fear of social reprisal than males have to express their femininity. It is perfectly natural for all human beings to want to express themselves in both masculine and feminine terms, yet the four horsemen - ignorance, fear, guilt and hatred - rear their ugly heads more severely when it comes to males trying to express their femininity.

Ms Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Second, crossdressing is a wonderful and powerful sensual experience, powerful enough to cause a person to cry from sheer happiness. It is powerful enough to wash the stress and strain from a person's spirit and touch off a sensual experience of which there is no equal. There simply is no denying the power of the desire to crossdress, and the value of its sensual and emotional rewards. There is also no denying the tragic results of the repression of that desire and the prohibition of those rewards (painful unhappiness, overwhelming anxiety, hatred, even alcoholism, divorce, and too often suicide).

The points being made here are: 1.) The desire to crossdress is fundamental to a transvestite's personality. That desire may be repressed and hidden, but it will never go away. There is no "cure". The closest thing to a "cure" is dressing until it becomes boring, then dressing can be put aside for periods of time, often years. Behavior modification is not and never has been a "cure", and neither has therapy. The only thing a therapist can hope to give a patient is peace of mind.

2.) There is nothing wrong with crossdressing. Crossdressing is a harmless hobby, nothing more. No one is hurt or abused, and the sensual and emotional rewards outweigh any negative aspects. There is something wrong with ignorance, and worse, preferring to remain ignorant, and the usual results of ignorance, fear, guilt, and hatred.

3.) Crossdressing does not imply homosexuality. Quite the opposite. Femininity is the attraction, not masculinity.

4.) A person who crossdresses may be a nicer, a more sensitive, compassionate and gentle human being, but a crossdresser is not a sissy. 'Sissy' usually implies cowardice or weakness, and most people who enjoy crossdressing are neither. Courage is neither masculine nor feminine. It has no gender. A coward can be anybody, regardless of how they like to dress. Also, strength has no gender, and means far more than mere physical prowess. If anything, crossdressing helps improve a person's abiIity to cope, which means it helps a person become stronger, not weaker.

5.) All people everywhere have both masculine and feminine traits. It is perfectly natural for people, both males and females, to want to express both their masculine and feminine qualities*. What is unnatural is to call that desire unnatural, and worse, labeling that desire 'abnormal' or 'sick'. (*In fact, the women's liberation movement is about that freedom of expression - to compete, be agressive, to be able to shun traditional feminine roles without fear of social reprisal; to be thought of and treated as equal human beings. However, feminism is fair and correct only if it can be called humanism, which means not only economic equality for females, but emotional equality for males without fear of social reprisal. Without that emotional equality, feminism is nothing more than one more masculine oriented political statement. Remember, there is a fundamental difference between feminine values and feminist values. Feminist values are more masculine, and feminine values are more human.)

If a married couple is to have any success, is to have any chance for long term security and

peace of mind, both partners must be willing to work for it. If not, then that marriage is going to be a rocky one at best, and will more than likely end tragically. To succeed, both partners must acknowledge that transvestism does exist, and there's not much either one can do about it. Next they both must understand the nature of the phenomena, which means overcoming the number one barrier, ignorance, not only about crossdressing per se, but about each other's prejudices, preferences and needs. That paves the way for overcoming the next and most formidable barrier, fear, which paves the way to cooperation and trust, and finally the worst barrier of all, hatred, which paves the way to love and peace of mind.

To accomplish that requires conviction, and work. Without the conviction, and without the effort, that marriage is condemned to unhappiness, suspicion, bitterness, and probably divorce. If a couple is to succeed, then they must very seriously and honestly ask themselves these questions: 1.) Do both partners want the marriage to work?

2.) Are both partners willing to work for it?

3.) Are both partners honestly concerned about the other's feelings and peace of mind?

If the answer is 'yes' to all these questions, then the marriage has a chance, and the rewards are greater than you can imagine.

-END-